Havana Talks Draw Fire of Absent Reds

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Associated Press

As about 500 delegates from 100 nations gathered in Havana for the opening of the first Asian-African-Latin Conference of Solidarity yesterday, the conference drew fire from uninvited Communists.

The Yugoslav newspaper Borba, a government organ, accused the Havana conference of "attempts to discriminate against policies of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence."

It would be normal, the paper said, to expect that Yugoslav League for Peace and organizations of the Communist Parties of France and Italy would be invited to the conference.

Borba indicated that the lack of invitations to these groups was a concession to the Chinese Communists who want to make the conference "a closed territorial and race club."

Sees Theme Undermined

"In essence it is an attempt to discriminate against policies of nonalignment and peaceful coexistence, which the Yugoslav League consistently supports," Borba said.

The paper concluded that such an attitude "most efficiently undermines and devaluates the meeting, whose basic theme should be international solidarity."

The official theme of the 9-day forum is solidarity in the "common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism." The agenda has a pronounced anti-United States tone.

Most of the decisions of the conference delegates will not be revealed. The few open sessions are expected largely to provide opportunities for anit-American speechmaking.

China Sends 43

Communist China has sent the largest delegation, 43 men, to the conference, which opens one day after Cuban Premier Castro announced that Peking has cutback its trade with Cuba.

Castro is reported to be bitter because China refused to continue an arrangement under which Chinese rice was exchanged for Cuban sugar.

The opening of the conference drew worried statements from Latin American leaders.

Venezuelan President Raul Leoni said that "the peace of the continent is at stake." He called the conference "a new aggression against Venezuela."

Leaders in Brazil, Peru and Colombia also expressed concern. Their nations have been struggling recently to wipe out bands of guerrilla terrorists and they fear that the conference could lead to an increase in guerrilla activity in Latin America.